

Application No. 09/882,015  
Amendment dated November 17, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 15, further comprising supplementary fixed poles of substantially different configuration than the plurality of poles and intended to produce any magnetic field direction not produced by the primary plurality of magnetic poles and associated magnetic fields.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 15 or claim 2, further comprising adjustment means adapting the gap between the poles to different media thickness.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 15 or claim 2, further comprising an accessory for supplementary restriction of different media form factors to more effective regions of the degaussing fields.
5. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein said accessory introduces media with magnetically attractive components into the field and extracts such media from the field.
6. (Currently Amended) A bulk degaussing apparatus for erasing various sizes of magnetic media, comprising:

a plurality of fixed magnetic poles formed by assembly of electromagnet or permanent magnet and iron elements predisposed along and across different sides of a gap, providing means to project magnetic flux across said gap, and

a spacer for spacing of such poles at roughly equal intervals or sets of similar intervals across the gap, forming a set of fields at staggered intervals across the width of media passage and providing multi-directional fields, such that every point in media passing linearly through the gap passes through either a field resulting from adjacent poles that changes direction over the course of passage, or different fields from different sets of adjacent poles that differ in direction, or both, and

a guide means for constraining the location of media passing the gap formed by the plurality of poles to the effective degaussing regions formed between the poles.

7. (Currently Amended) A bulk degaussing method for erasing various sizes of magnetic media, comprising:

providing a plurality of fixed magnetic poles formed by assembly of electromagnet or permanent magnet and iron elements predisposed along and across different sides of a gap, providing means to project multi-directional magnetic flux across said gap, and

placing of said poles ~~with partial overlap of so that~~ facing poles on opposite sides of the pathway established for media passage are offset and only partially overlap.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, comprising a serial arrangement of at least two multi-poled degaussing regions, differing in their orientation so as to avoid regional weaknesses of singular arrangements.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, comprising a serial arrangement of two or more multi-poled degaussing regions, differing in their arrangement, so as to avoid regional weaknesses of singular arrangements.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein said magnetic poles are provided having an aspect ratio of approximately unity.

11. (Currently Amended) A bulk degaussing apparatus for erasing magnetic media, comprising:

a plurality of fixed magnetic poles predisposed along and across different sides of a gap for projecting multi-directional magnetic flux across said gap, spacing of said poles at intervals across the gap, forming a set of fields at staggered intervals;

a media passage, such that every point in media passing across the width of said media passage is exposed to the set of fields linearly through which the gap passes; and

an adapter to constrain location of media passing through the gap formed by the plurality of poles to the effective degaussing regions formed between the poles.

12. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising supplementary fixed poles of substantially different configuration than the plurality of poles and intended to produce any magnetic field direction not produced by the primary plurality of magnetic poles and associated magnetic fields.

13. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising an accessory for supplementary restriction of different media form factors to more

effective regions of the degaussing fields for introducing media with magnetically attractive components into the field or extracting such media from the field.

14. (Currently Amended) A bulk degaussing method for erasing various sizes of magnetic media, comprising:

projecting multi-directional magnetic flux across a gap with a plurality of fixed magnetic poles formed by an assembly of magnets and iron elements predisposed along and across different sides of a gap;

spacing of the poles at roughly equal intervals or sets of similar intervals across the gap;

forming a set of fields at staggered intervals across the width of media passage, such that every point in media passing linearly through the gap passes through either a field resulting from adjacent poles that changes direction over the course of passage, or different fields from different sets of adjacent poles that differ in direction, or both; and

constraining the location of media passing through the gap formed by the plurality of poles to the effective degaussing regions formed between the poles.

15. (New) A bulk degaussing apparatus for erasing various sizes of magnetic media, comprising:

a plurality of fixed magnetic poles predisposed along and across different sides of a gap, providing means to project magnetic flux across said gap, and

such poles being spaced at intervals or sets of similar intervals across and along the gap, forming sets of fixed fields at intervals and directions across and along the width of media passage, such that every point in the media passing linearly through the gap passes through the fields resulting from adjacent sets of

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poles over the course of passage, or different fields from different sets of adjacent poles, or both, and

said fields being multi-directional, and

a guide adapter for constraining the location of media passing into or through the gap by the plurality of poles to the effective degaussing regions formed between the poles.